

Listing of the Claims

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) ~~The protector of Claim 1~~ A drum protector for a printer cartridge, the cartridge having an elongated drum with a drum critical imaging area extending along a substantial portion of the length of the drum, the drum also having relatively short end sections at both ends thereof, the protector including:

(a) an elongated protector member having a length greater than the drum critical imaging area, the elongated protector member adapted to be positioned in a protecting position over the drum, having at least one side flange portion on at least one long side of the elongated protector member;

(b) a central raised section extending longitudinally on the elongated protector member, the raised section having a length sufficient to cover the drum critical imaging area and a height sufficient to provide a clearance above the drum critical imaging area when the protector is in the protecting position; and

(c) at least two end spacers extending from the inner surface of the raised section at a location such that they are outside of the drum critical imaging area when the protector is in the protecting position.

7. (Original) The protector of Claim 6 further including at least one strip of contour-conforming material bonded to a bottom surface of the at least one side flange portion.

8. (Original) The protector of Claim 6 wherein the strip of contour-conforming material includes an adhesive bonding surface on the bottom for removably bonding to the printer cartridge.

9. (Currently amended) ~~The protector of claim 1~~ A drum protector for a printer cartridge, the cartridge having an elongated drum with a drum critical imaging area extending along a substantial portion of the length of the drum, the drum also having relatively short end sections at both ends thereof, the protector including:

(a) an elongated protector member having a length greater than the drum critical imaging area, the elongated protector member adapted to be positioned in a protecting position over the drum, having at least one side flange portion on at least one long side of the elongated protector member;

(b) a central raised section extending longitudinally on the elongated protector member, the raised section having a length sufficient to cover the drum critical imaging area and a height sufficient to provide a clearance above the drum critical imaging area when the protector is in the protecting position;

(c) at least two end spacers extending from the inner surface of the raised section at a location such that they are outside of the drum critical imaging area when the protector is in the protecting position

(d) and further including a first resilient element receiving feature located at a first longitudinal end of the elongated protector member and a second resilient element receiving feature located at a second longitudinal end of the elongated protector member..

10. (Currently amended) The protector of Claim 1A, drum protector for a printer cartridge, the cartridge having an elongated drum with a drum critical imaging area extending along a substantial portion of the length of the drum, the drum also having relatively short end sections at both ends thereof, the protector including:

(a) an elongated protector member having a length greater than the drum critical imaging area, the elongated protector member adapted to be positioned in a protecting position over the drum, having at least one side flange portion on at least one long side of the elongated protector member;

(b) a central raised section extending longitudinally on the elongated protector member, the raised section having a length sufficient to cover the drum critical imaging area and a height sufficient to provide a clearance above the drum critical imaging area when the protector is in the protecting position;

(c) at least two end spacers extending from the inner surface of the raised section at a location such that they are outside of the drum critical imaging area when the protector is in the protecting position;

(d) and further including at least one ridge extending along a substantial portion of the elongated protector member in the longitudinal direction.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) ~~The method of Claim 11~~ A method of protecting a printer cartridge drum, the drum having a drum critical imaging area extending along a substantial portion of the length thereof and further having relatively short end sections at both ends thereof, the method including the steps:

(a) positioning a protector over the drum in a manner such that the protector rests on the short end sections; and

(b) securing the protector over the drum with one or more securing elements and wherein the drum is surrounded by a toner bin having a toner bin opening formed in the top thereof through which the drum is exposed, the method further including the step of substantially confirming bottom edges of the protector to peripheral surfaces of the toner bin opening..

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) ~~The protector of Claim 15 further~~ A drum protector of a printer cartridge, the cartridge having a drum with a drum critical imaging area extending along a substantial portion of the length of the drum, the drum also having relatively short end sections at both ends, the protector including:

(a) an elongated protector member, the elongated protector member adapted to be positioned in a protecting position over the drum;

(b) a central raised section extending longitudinally on the elongated protector member, the raised section having an inner surface, a length sufficient to cover the drum critical imaging area, and a height sufficient to provide a clearance above the drum critical imaging area when the protector is in the protecting position; and

(c) at least two end spacers extending from a bottom surface of the protector member, each end spacer being adapted to rest on a respective short end section of the drum so as to maintain a clearance between the drum critical imaging area and the elongated protector member when the protector member is in the protecting position and including at least one

strip of contour-conforming material secured to a bottom surface along one lateral flange of the ~~protector~~ protector member.

20. (Currently amended) ~~The protector of Claim 15 further~~ A drum protector of a printer cartridge, the cartridge having a drum with a drum critical imaging area extending along a substantial portion of the length of the drum, the drum also having relatively short end sections at both ends, the protector including:

(a) an elongated protector member, the elongated protector member adapted to be positioned in a protecting position over the drum;

(b) a central raised section extending longitudinally on the elongated protector member, the raised section having an inner surface, a length sufficient to cover the drum critical imaging area, and a height sufficient to provide a clearance above the drum critical imaging area when the protector is in the protecting position; and

(c) at least two end spacers extending from a bottom surface of the protector member, each end spacer being adapted to rest on a respective short end section of the drum so as to maintain a clearance between the drum critical imaging area and the elongated protector member when the protector member is in the protecting position and including a first resilient element receiving feature located at a first longitudinal end of the elongated protector member and a second resilient element receiving feature located at a second longitudinal end of the elongated ~~protector~~ protector member.